



04 February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

INSET Day

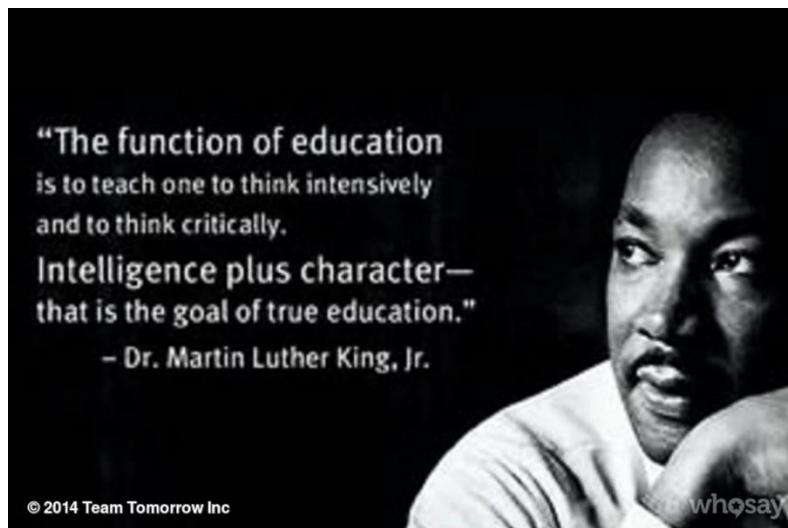
Firstly, just a reminder that next Friday (February 11) is an INSET day. It is our annual Trust Conference Day, when we (along with 450 other Trust employees) will be attending and delivering a variety of lectures and workshops on current topics in education.

This week!

I hope everyone is well and that you have avoided Covid. It has been a testing time, but I am so proud of the staff, the students, and the community. Everyone has pitched in and done their bit in ensuring that lessons have happened, year groups have stayed in school and face to face education has kept going. With a small staff of under 30 teachers having 5 teachers out, Wednesday was a particularly challenging day, however by collapsing a couple of lessons in science and using some agency staff and some teachers giving up their frees, all lessons ran, all duties were covered, and the school ran smoothly.

Character Education

Mr Hunter has been delivering assemblies on character education this week and I have been delighted at the way the students have received them. Attached below is a great quote that summarises our beliefs around character education, and I hope by participating in schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award our students can really make a difference to their lives and the communities, they live in. I am therefore delighted that after our recent launch over 50% of Year 9 students have signed up for Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Attendance

Whilst I know that Covid has made attendance more problematic since Christmas may I make a plea that all students do their utmost to get to school. Our attendance sits well above the national average which is pleasing but we are also aware of too many students who take the occasional day off for no reason. We will be working closely with the Oxfordshire Attendance team in the next few weeks to make sure we do everything we can to support students in getting to school. A positive school attendance record is one of the key differences in whether

students succeed or not so we hope you can support us in ensuring our learners get the possible chance of success at the end of Year 11.

Uniform

Uniform standards are important to our school community and how we conduct ourselves. We have noticed one or two students particularly in the older year groups who have fallen below our ambitious standards recently. Please can you support us in ensuring that all uniform is correct when the students leave the house in the morning and students have ties and blazers with them each day. We will be working hard on this in the next two weeks to ensure all students look smart and dress ready to learn as part of the MECE community.

Facilities

We received our new outdoor seating this week. These benches have been purchased with money from the Co-Operative Society community fund and we are incredibly grateful for this money. This will allow us to give our students another space to use during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

In this vein, on Monday I am meeting the consultant and survey team associated with the building of our new Multi Use Games Area. This Astroturf pitch will be placed on the school field and will allow us to teach hockey, football, tennis, and netball on a high-quality modern surface all year round. I will keep you informed of these exciting developments!

My stars of the week this week are:

Staff member of the week goes to **Mr Watterson** for his support of our football programme which included taking one of the girls' teams up to Lord William's School in Thame on Wednesday evening and returning to school well after 6pm.

Student member of the week goes to **Georgina** in Year 8 for combining being an excellent student with a very hefty programme of rowing training and competitions. This really shows high levels of grit and determination.

Please leave us any feedback on the links below.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

